John Osborn House Southport, Connecticut

HABS No. Conn. 20

PHOTOGRAPHS WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA District of Connecticut

Historic American Buildings Survey Harold H. Davis, District Officer 29 Whitney Avenue, New Haven, Conn.

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THE JOHN OSBORN HOUSE

SOUTHPORT, FAIRFIELD COUNTY, CONNECTICUT

Owner: Azur O. Hawkins

Date of Erection: 1772

Architect: Not known

Builder: Stephen Osborn

Present Condition: Fair in original state of construction, excepting

front entrance door

Number of Stories: Two and one-half

Materials of Construction: Stone foundations

Brick chimney

Clapboarded sidewalls

Shingled roof

Other Existing Records: Colonial Dames Series: "Old Houses of

Connecticut"

List of Photographs:

- 1. West Elevation
- 2. Southeast Elevation
- 3. Detail of Dining Room Cupboard
- 4. Detail of stairs

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This homestead is situated on the edge of what was formerly called Pequot Swamp, Southport and was originally owned by Stephen Osborn. The house is still held by descendants of the original owner, and it is not many rods distant from the monument erected by the sons of Colonial Wars to commemorate the end of the Pequot War in 1637.

Stephen Osborn built this house in 1772. It is said to be the third Colonial dwelling erected in that part of the town and was left undisturbed by the British when they burned Fairfield in 1779 and raided various sections of the country along the shore.

The old Osborn well further down the road had a silver tankard hanging by its side, a vessel brought from England, and here neighbors and travelers were accustomed to quench their thirsts. Tradition has it that the silver tankard which hung by the well was preserved and that Washington refreshed himself by its service.

Source of Information: Colonial Dames Series "Old Houses of Connecticut".

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